



PRESS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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SACATON WOMAN SENTENCED TO PRISON FOR CHARGES RELATED TO THE DEATH OF AN ILLEGAL ALIEN

TUCSON, Ariz. – Jessica Carlos, 23, of Sacaton, Ariz., was sentenced to 121 months in prison here today by U.S. District Judge Cindy K. Jorgenson after the defendant pleaded guilty on August 31, 2004 to Transportation of Illegal Aliens Resulting in the Death of Another Person.

On March 20, 2004, on the Tohono O'odham Indian Reservation, Border Patrol agents conducted a traffic stop of a vehicle, driven by Carlos, suspected of smuggling illegal aliens. A Border Patrol agent noticed several individuals in the backseat attempting to conceal themselves and instructed Carlos to turn off the vehicle. At that time, a passenger reached for a handgun and fired at the agent through the open front driver's window, striking the agent in the right ear. Carlos restarted the vehicle and fled the scene at a high rate of speed. Border Patrol agents returned fire and gave pursuit. During the pursuit, the passenger again shot at the agents and Carlos' vehicle forced three cars off the road before crashing into a truck in Casa Grande, Ariz.

Carlos and the passengers fled on foot but were soon apprehended. Investigators discovered three individuals in the trunk of the defendants' vehicle, one of whom was deceased. Further investigation revealed that the deceased individual was a 17-year-old male from Mexico who had been killed by a gunshot wound when the agents returned fire.

The passenger who fired the gun, Shane Bobby Chiago, 23, of Mesa, Ariz., pleaded guilty on September 7, 2004, to Assault on a Federal Officer, Discharging a Firearm During a Crime of Violence and Conspiracy to Transport Illegal Aliens Resulting in the Death of Another Person and was sentenced in Tucson federal court on February 14, 2005 to 217 months in prison.

The investigation in this case was conducted by the FBI, U.S. Border Patrol and the Tohono O'odham Police Department. The prosecution was handled by Eric J. Markovich, Assistant United States Attorney, District of Arizona, Tucson, Ariz.

CASE NUMBER: CR-04-00850-TUC-CKJ
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